

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 13, 2012
8965 Balboa Avenue, Room 1-A
12:00 – 2:00 PM

Present: Nory Behana, Patty Boles, Bernice Briggs, Wendy Curiel, Jennifer Fightlin, Ann Fox, Ernie Gomez, Andrea Jackson, Alice Kennedy, Dawn Lewis, Diana Macis, Violeta Mora, Danny Ortiz, Twila Perucci, Michelle Rodriguez, Leesa Rosenberg, Peggy Ruefer, Anita Secor, Barbara Wojtach

MINUTES

- I. Twila Perucci called the meeting to order. All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: Corrections were noted under San Diego Office of Education, second bullet: "...held in **August** for grades 2-5 with very limited slots;" fourth bullet: "...will **hope to have camp available next year**;" and Child Health Disability Prevention, second bullet: "...have been followed to **completion**." A motion to approve the correction to the minutes was made and carried.
- III. Presentation – Leesa Rosenberg gave an overview on the new CWS System Improvement Plan (SIP) 2012-2017.
 - Five year plan will focus on:
 1. Placement stability
 2. Reunification
 3. Agency collaboration
 - Goal to create consistency across programs and regions.
 - Handout distributed.

North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles

- Association received \$450 in new shoe vouchers for Payless Shoe Store.
- Association launched a new website: <http://www.straightfromtheheartinc.org>.
- Volunteers have showed much support in organizing office space and thrift store.
- Association is using Facebook and Craigslist to get the word out about our services.
- Child Welfare Service Practice Framework focus group for foster parents was held today at Balboa. The next meeting for foster parents will be held in September.
- Toys-for-Tots letter has been received; Association will receive Toys-for-Tots donations this year!
- Discussed concerns regarding Emergency Shelter Care criteria and length of time to complete the Melding process.

HHSA & Child Welfare Services – Alice Kennedy

- CWS is continuing to hire more staff this year.
 - The first class hired reported to regions two weeks ago.
 - A new class began in August and is currently in training.
 - At least one more new class is expected to begin in the fall.
- Changes in the Child Welfare Services Executive Team:
 - Patty Kay Danon, Assistant Deputy Director, promoted to Director of HHSA Contracts.
 - Cathi Palatella, Assistant Deputy Director, will move from Polinsky to Adolescent Services/AB12.
 - Cindy Jensen, Hotline Manager, will take over management of the Office of the Ombudsman and DOJ Unit.

- There will be a recruitment to replace the Assistant Deputy Director for Polinsky and the Hotline Manager position.
- County of San Diego was accepted for the Quality Parent Initiative (QPI), a nationwide initiative overseen by Youth Law Center & California Dept. of Social Services.
 - Workgroup will include caretakers, CWS staff, and community stakeholders.
 - Focus on rebranding the public image of foster care, defining what makes a quality parent, developing expectations, and addressing how the CWS system can support quality caretakers.
 - Preliminary meetings will begin in November.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists –

- Central: Andrea Jackson:
 - Andrea is the new supervisor of the Central Region Placement Unit.
 - Creating a new flyer to introduce Central Region Placement Unit to local foster parents.
- East: Peggy Ruefer:
 - Dennis Leggett is the new supervisor of the East Region Placement Unit.
 - East region has been successful at finding family members through Facebook.

San Diego County Office of Education – Violeta Mora

- Pre-Employment Training (PET) reached a high level of needs this summer; 35 youths completed PET.
- Supplemental Education Services (SES) forms were mailed to parents in the San Diego Unified School District. Foster parents need to complete paperwork by the deadline to get on the list for services. (SES includes tutoring for foster children.)
- After-school tutoring is available through the Kahn Academy internet site.
- Graduate requirements for high school diplomas and GEDs are changing and becoming more rigorous. Foster youth may complete an AB 167 District Graduation Requirement form if they changed districts in the 11th & 12th grade and want to request a waiver of the new requirements.
- Federal financial aid will be changing. Students must have a high school diploma or a GED to receive financial aid. Financial aid will be limited to 6 full-time years for all students.
- College & Career Day will be held on September 28, 2012 at San Diego State University.

San Diego County Adoptions – Barbara Wojtach

- The Chargers calendar will be distributed in mid-November and at the Chargers game on December 2.
- A bike race and festival will be held on Sept. 15 & 16 to benefit Rivers of Hope.
- The Fall Festival will be held on October 4, 2012. Waiting children from San Diego and Los Angeles will attend the Festival.
- Heart Gallery: Three photos of waiting children will be displayed outside of the Governor's office during November to honor National Adoption Month.
- Annual Court Party will be held November 16, 2012 to celebrate families finalizing their adoptions.

Child Health Disability Prevention – Anita Secor

- CHDP developed a survey focused on communication between nurses, caretakers, and social workers.
 - Goal is to make the process easier and more efficient.
 - Anita will forward Ann Fox the survey via email to send to the Associations.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program – Stacey Morey

- DSEP now provides infant massage for ages 0-6 months.
 - Massage helps sooth infants and promotes bonding.
 - Caretakers are also taught how to conduct infant massage.

Foster Care Education – Nory Behana

- Distributed the new Pink Flyer (training flyer).
- FAKCE is participating in the College & Career Day on September 28.
 - Foster parents will receive training credit for attendance.

Foster Home Licensing – Ann Fox

- Suzette Johnston is new Administrative Secretary for Foster Home Licensing.
- Completed two-month state review of 200 Licensing cases. Exit Interview is scheduled for August 31.
- Foster Family Picnic will be held on September 30, with a special appearance by Ronald McDonald.
 - CWS regional staff and community groups will sponsor activity booths for children.
- Emergency Shelter Care (ESC): CWS is in preliminary stage of reviewing ESC.
 - Workgroup will include foster parents, ESCU, and placement staff .
 - Focus on determining what is needed from ESC and bringing San Diego ESC into compliance with the state plan.
- Foster Care Services Sunset Review is due in November.
 - An amendment was made one year ago to decrease voting membership to 17.
 - There are no other anticipated changes at this time.

San Diego County Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Ernie Gomez

- Currently evaluating all ILS contracting agencies with regards to effectiveness and efficiency

IV. **NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 11, 2012:** 8965 Balboa Avenue, Conference Room 1-A

V. **ADJOURNMENT:** 2:00 pm